

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An expandable sand screen for use in a wellbore, comprising:

an expandable base pipe;

a base filter layer disposed along the expandable base pipe; and

a separable filter layer disposed along the base pipe, the base filter layer having a solid region disposed at a separation area of the separable filter layer wherein the base filter layer and the separable filter layer are not directly connected to the base pipe.
2. (Original) The expandable sand screen as recited in claim 1, further comprising a shroud surrounding the base filter layer.
3. (Original) The expandable sand screen as recited in claim 2, wherein the base filter layer and the separable filter layer are secured to the shroud.
4. (Original) The expandable sand screen as recited in claim 1, wherein the base filter layer is located along an exterior of the base pipe and between the separable filter layer and the base pipe.
5. (Original) The expandable sand screen as recited in claim 2, wherein the shroud comprises a plurality of shroud sections affixed to the base pipe.
6. (Original) The expandable sand screen as recited in claim 1, wherein the separable filter layer is a woven filter.
7. (Original) The expandable sand screen as recited in claim 1, wherein the separable filter layer comprises a plurality of filter pairs, each filter pair being separated by a gap upon expansion of the base pipe.

8. (Original) The expandable sand screen as recited in claim 2, further comprising at least one backing strip extending longitudinally along the expandable base pipe, the backing strip serving to connect the shroud to the expandable base pipe.

9. (Original) The expandable sand screen as recited in claim 8, wherein the backing strip comprises a channel for receiving a control line.

10-43. (Cancelled)

44. (New) An expandable sand screen for use in a wellbore, comprising:

an expandable base pipe;

a base filter layer disposed along the expandable base pipe;

a separable filter layer disposed along the base pipe, the base filter layer having a solid region disposed at a separation area of the separable filter layer; and

a shroud surrounding the base filter layer wherein the shroud comprises a plurality of shroud sections affixed to the base pipe.

45. (New) An expandable sand screen for use in a wellbore, comprising:

an expandable base pipe;

a base filter layer disposed along the expandable base pipe;

a separable filter layer disposed along the base pipe, the base filter layer having a solid region disposed at a separation area of the separable filter layer;

a shroud surrounding the base filter layer; and

at least one backing strip extending longitudinally along the expandable base pipe, the backing strip serving to connect the shroud to the expandable base pipe.

46. (New) The expandable sand screen as recited in claim 45, wherein the backing strip comprises a channel for receiving a control line.